

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 853

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CONFIDENTIAL USNATO 1682

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, CN, VN VS

SUBJECT: CANADIAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS IN HANOI

DURING DISCUSSION ON POLITICAL SUBJECTS AT THE MARCH 26 POLADS,
CANADIAN REP (FOWELL) CIRCULATED THE FOLLOWING REPORT ON THE PRESENTA

-
TION OF CREDENTIALS IN HANOI AT THE END OF JANUARY BY THE CANADIAN
AMBASSADOR TO THE DRV. HE REPORTED THAT THE AMBASSADOR RECEIVED
A "WARM RECEPTION".

BEGIN TEXT:

THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE DRVN, RESIDENT IN
PEKING, PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS IN HANOI AT THE END OF
JANUARY. THE ATTITUDE OF ALL THOSE ENCOUNTERED THROUGHOUT
THE VISIT WAS OPEN AND FRIENDLY; THE BURDEN OF THEIR
WELCOME WAS EMPHASIS ON A NEW PHASE STARTING IN DRVN-
CANADA TIES, WHICH IN THEIR VIEW OPENED PROSPECTS FOR THE
EXPANSION OF DIPLOMATIC, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS;
AMBASSADOR SMALL MET WITH VICE-PRESEIDENT NGUYEN LUONG BANG,
PRIME MINISTER PHAM VAN DONG. FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN DUY
TRINH, VICE-FOREIGN MINISTER PHAN HIEN, MINISTER OF FOREIGN
TRADE PHAN ANH, VICE-PRESIDENT AND MINISTER OF THE STATE
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PLANNING COMMISSION LE THANH NGHI, CHAIRMAN OF THE STANDING
COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TRUONG CHINH, MFA DIRECTOR
RESPONSIBLE FOR WESTERN COUNTRIES MAI VAN BO AND A VARIETY
OF OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES.

THE NORTH VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER STATED THAT THERE WERE NO PROBLEMS BETWEEN US AND ABSOLUTELY NO OBSTACLE STOOD IN THE WAY OF GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS; SPEAKING OF OUR EARLIER LINKS, PHAM VAN DONG SAID "LA COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE, C'EST LE PASSE"; AND ON TWO OCCASIONS VICE FOREIGN MINISTER HIEN REFERRED TO CANADA'S "LIBERATION" FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION AND SAID THIS HAD CREATED MORE FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE PARTICIPATION OF THE PRG IN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES WAS MENTIONED ONLY IN GENERAL TERMS.

CONCERNING AID, PHAM VAN DONG ASKED DIRECTLY WHAT CANADA COULD DO FOR THE DRVN. THIS PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN CANADIAN AID POLICY IN THE REGION, E.E., LARGEMLY ORIENTED TO RELIEF AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE. THE DRVN PRIME MINISTER THEN MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR.

MAI VAN BO ASKED IF CANADA INTENDED TO ESTABLISH AN EMBASSY IN HANOI. AMBASSADOR SMALL REPLIED NEGATIVELY. TO MR. SMALL'S QUESTION ABOUT HIS GOVERNMENT'S INTENTIONS HE SAID THE MATTER WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION.

ON THE SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, PHAM VAN DONG STRESSED THAT THE PARIS AGREEMENTS WERE AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE DRVN; CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN THE DRVN, HE INDICATED THAT A NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN WAS BEING PREPARED FOR 1976-80. HE SAID AN INDUSTRIAL POTENTIAL WAS NECESSARY BUT ADDED THAT THE POPULATION'S NEEDS HAD REQUIRED HIS GOVERNMENT TO UNDERTAKE AN ARDUOUS BATTLE TO DEVELOP AGRICULTURE. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED PRIORITY FOR EDUCATION.

END TEXT PEREZ

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